

December 16, 1975

Dr. W.J. Whelan
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Dear Dr. Whelan,

I have your note of November 17th asking me to contribute an obituary notice on Ed Tatum. I regret that I was not able to answer sooner but I have been out of the country until just now.

Unfortunately, I already have several other commitments in this direction and I do not think I quite know how to write anything further that would be distinctive. I have been in touch with Dr. Beadle and he is in the same boat.

I do have one suggestion, however. Ed wrote an excellent account of his own work up to 1959 as his Nobel Prize Lecture. I believe this was also printed in Science sometime in early 1959.

You could hardly do better than reprint that address. It is still fresh and interesting and he speaks better for himself than anyone else could.

If you want some of the additional official biographical details, I am sure that the Public Relations Office at the Rockefeller University would be very happy to oblige.

About the IUB report on Viking, I did indeed respond that it would be impossible to reconcile that task with the actual operations of the Viking mission. I hope they have been in touch with Dr. Richard Young of the Office of Life Sciences at NASA about how best to deal with that situation.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr

cc: Beadle